84. Means of communication in Todupuzha.

Mr. Utuppan Tomman (Member, Todupuzha Taluk) spoke about the necessity of the following roads:—

(*a*) Vazhakulam-Kotamangalam road.

(*b*) Road to Periyar from Karimannur *via* Malappuram and Kannadiar,

(*c*) Road from Mariappalam (Muvattupuzha) to Todupuzha passing through Menmadangu, Kavana and other places.

The Member said that the condition of the people in the matter of communications was deplorable. The sanction accorded to the construction of a bridge across the Pulikal river and of a road to Arakulam had not so far been given effect to. He then urged the need for the conversion of some of the existing village foot-paths into cart roads—namely the 6 feet paths from (1) Vazhakulam to Purappuzha, Kodikkulam and Karimannur, (2) the village road from Vazhakulam-Kotamangalam and (3) the 6 feet trace from Karimannur to Periyar *via* Malappuram. Barring the head-quarters of the taluks of Todupuzha and Muvattupuzha, the most important places in those localities were Vazhakkulam and Kotamangalam. The Karimannur-Periyar village road would, if improved and rendered fit for cart traffic, restore the commercial importance of the Todupuzha taluk. The Member also complained about the present condition of the dispensary and lack of accommodation for patients, especially in view of the hilly nature of the taluk and requested that it be converted into a hospital, as already promised.

Dewan's reply.—The Todupuzha taluk has only been recently opened up and it will take time to introduce a net work of roads there. A road from Kodayattur to Mayalam Saddle is now under investigation. There are also two roads under construction in the taluk, viz., the Arakulam road and the Todupuzha-Karimannur road.

Member.—The road from Karimannur to Periyar is most necessary.

Dewan.—An estimate for Rs. 3,500 has been received for the road from Kudayattur to Mayalam Saddle and this road leads to Periyar. If that is sanctioned, the other road is unnecessary.

Member.—The other road will benefit Todupuzha. The road, I suggested, is necessary.

Dewan.—Is there not a road to Kaliyar Estate?

Member.—Yes. We want a road from that place to Periyar. The road from Kudayattur to Periyar is a round-about one about 5 or 6 miles away. We want this road also.

Dewan.—The Chief Engineer will look into this matter.

In regard to the hospital, I did not say that the dispensary would be converted into a hospital. I said that it would be removed from the present building to the Forest Ranger's Office. The Darbar Physician has agreed to this proposal and he says that the building should be repaired and the dispensary transferred. Even if it is a dispensary, one or two patients would ordinarily be admitted and treated as in-patients.

Member.—Till now, no patients have been admitted.

Dewan.—There should be an emergency ward. General orders have been issued in the matter.

85. Some needs of the Kunnatnad Taluk.

Mr. V. R. Gopala Pillai (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) first spoke about the necessity of making Perumpavur a conservancy station to be controlled and looked after by the Sanitary Commissioner and his staff. He described the growing importance of the locality on account of the existence of public offices and an important market which attracted a large concourse of people. The need for keeping the station in a state of sanitation was felt, especially soon after the market days. The only way of attaining the end was to convert Perumpavur into a

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conservancy station with a staff of sanitary subordinates, as otherwise the place was likely to be visited by contagious diseases. Secondly, the Member prayed that the standard of the local English school be raised. It was the people who, anxious to secure English education for their children, put up the present building for the English school. It had, become popular and gradually it had reached the Middle School stage. In view of the great hardship experienced by the pupils who passed the Third Form examination and were anxious to go into higher forms which, however, they were unable to do on account of their having to proceed either to Alwaye or Parur, the Member requested that the standard might be raised by one class at least immediately. Thirdly, the people of the taluk experienced great difficulty in the matter of medical relief, as they had only a dispensary which had now become very popular. In fact, the institution had outgrown its need and instances had occurred in which men suffering from serious maladies had to be attended to as in-patients; but the necessary medical aid could not be given, as accommodation was not available even in the close vicinity of the dispensary, where the Medical Officer could house sick people requiring his constant personal attention. The Member, therefore, prayed that the dispensary be converted into a hospital and that the construction of a new building for the hospital be taken in hand. Fourthly, the need was being keenly felt for a separate building for the Munsiff's Court. At present, considerable hardship was being experienced both by the court subordinates and the litigant public on account of the present situation of the Munsiff's Court. The Principal court was held in the satrom and the Additional court was housed in a building some furlongs away. Touring officers who came to Perumpavur had no place to stay in and so very few visited the taluk. On account of the distance between the two courts, parties, witnesses, vakils, etc., were being put to no small inconvenience. The Member said that his information was that estimates had been sanctioned for the construction of a court house and he prayed that the work might be commenced at least next year and that the two courts be housed in the same compound.

The Member then urged the need for improving the following means of communication:—

1. The Alwaye-Perumpavur road should be metalled. The length of this road was only 9 miles and it was being largely used for traffic.

2. The road from Perumpavur market to Vallam landing—about 2 miles in length—should also be metalled.

3. Two canals which were at present in a state of disrepair should be deepened and widened. If this work could be carried out, boats could come to the very heart of the town and the frequent water-scarcity experienced during the hot weather could also be removed.

4. Construction of two bridges—one on the Periyar river at Tannipuzha and another across the Plankudi *thodu* on the Kadanad road. Though the former would cost an enormous amount of money, its necessity was great and the Member suggested that at least an investigation might be ordered.

Dewan's reply.—I shall answer the points *seriatim*.

I think that Perumpavur should have a conservancy staff. I shall issue orders to that effect.

I am afraid that I shall have to give the same answer that I gave to the Haripad Member *in re* the raising of the standard of the English Middle School. I do not think that, in view of our financial position and in view of the principle already enunciated, we should raise the standard of your lower Grade English School to the Higher Grade. You must find a way for taking over the school and working it as an aided school. About 9 miles from your place there is a High School at Alwaye. You cannot, therefore, say that educational facilities are altogether lacking for the inhabitants of your taluk.

About the conversion of the dispensary into a hospital I do not think that I can give you a reply which will satisfy you. We have a hospital at Parur,

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and another at Alwaye ; there is also a dispensary at Perumpavur. In response to your representation last year an emergency ward has been added to the dispensary. I think that ought to suffice. I have not received any complaint to the effect that patients that go to this dispensary have been sent out without treatment. An emergency ward can always hold one or two patients. We have to see whether the attendance is quite enough to justify a hospital there.

Member.—There are no in-patient wards.

Dewan.—Let us see whether the two emergency wards in the dispensary are occupied. It will be time then to see whether a hospital is necessary.

In regard to the buildings for the Munsiff's Court and the Magistrate's Court, I sympathise with you, but we have no money to spend on buildings. The permanent Munsiff's Court is located in the Satrom. The Munsiffs' Courts at Kuzhittura and Adur are likewise held in satroms. If further accommodation is wanted, we can put up temporary sheds. I think that even for the Additional Court that has been sanctioned for Perumpavur, if there is any likelihood of that court continuing for two years or so, it would be more economical to put up a shed than to pay rent. I shall write to the High Court and ask whether they would recommend the construction of a shed and, if so, to have it put up close to the Satrom.

A good deal of money is being spent on the Alwaye-Perumpavur road, and a number of miles have been metalled. At this rate, the entire road will be metalled in a couple of years. The work on the 9th mile has been started. There is an allotment of Rs. 10,000 in the current year's budget, so that you will see that the road is being attended to.

One section of the road from Perumpavur market to Vallam landing has already been metalled. The other section remains to be metalled.

Member.—It is enough if this portion is at least gravelled, if it cannot be metalled.

Dewan.—I shall see that this is done.

In the matter of deepening and widening the existing canals— I shall read what the Chief Engineer and the Peishkar say on the subject. The Chief Engineer says: " The first canal is a jungle stream 10' to 13' wide and runs along the centre of the extensive paddy fields in the valley. These paddy fields depend upon this stream for their water supply, which is now being managed by the several temporary bunds put across it so as to raise the water level to that of the adjoining fields. The proper landing to the Perumpavur market is the Vallam landing. Navigation is possible up to this landing throughout the year. A costly flight of steps built at the landing affords sufficient facilities for the loading and unloading of articles at the landing. This place is only 3 miles distant from the market and serves its purpose satisfactorily. The improvement of the canal so as to make it navigable throughout the year is a very costly scheme. The length of the canal to be widened and deepened is about 2 miles. A proper section will be 30 feet wide at bottom with a level bed of 3 ft. below low water level of the river and a side slope of $1\frac{1}{2}$: 1. Lands also have to be acquired for the purpose. A basin is also to be made. This is another costly item. The two bridges, one on the Puthencruz road and the other on the Alwaye-Perumpavur road, have also to be strengthened at heavy cost when the beds are deepened. The probable cost of the scheme will be about Rs. 20,000. But such an improvement work will make the canal unfit for irrigating the adjoining lands. It is not therefore worthwhile taking up for consideration. The second canal scheme is also not feasible under the foregoing circumstances".

The Dewan Peishkar says that the work requires careful investigation, lest the floods in the Periyar should rush up the canal and inundate the places in the vicinity.

The Plankudi bridge has already been sanctioned.

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The Periyar bridge is a very big item. It will cost at least three lakhs of rupees and must necessarily wait.

86. Means of communication in Alangad.

Mr. Sankaran Achyuta Menon (Member, Alangad Taluk) represented that for three or four months in the year a large portion of the Alangad taluk was under water. He referred to the Alwaye-Parur road which was submerged during the rains, and said that, as the paddy lands were also under cultivation, the people during those months were practically isolated. The difficulty was most felt by students who were kept away from school on such occasions. Government should devise means to relieve their distress. Most of the land required could be had practically free or for a nominal value. The people themselves, being cultivators and labourers, would be ready to undertake the construction of the roads at half the cost incurred by the Public Works Department, under the supervision of the latter. The pathways encroached upon by the ryots should be restored and the owners of lands on both sides should be asked to put them in order. Personal inspection by a responsible officer was necessary. A comprehensive report should first be called for from the P. W. D. on the existing communications and those required. Government had done practically little for the taluk considering its importance in point of both extent and population, in spite of repeated representations. He then mentioned the following works as requiring immediate attention.

(i) The road to Parur through Parakkadavu from Ankamali should be made cartable.

(ii) A new road should be constructed to connect the Ankamali-Parur road with the Alwaye-Parur road crossing the Vayalukarumalur ferry, passing Vayalu, Aiyrur, etc. The ferry should be maintained properly.

(iii) The Edapalli-Perumpavur road passing through Trikkakara should be rendered fit for cart traffic.

(iv) The road from the Karumallur-Purappallikavu temple to the Alwaye-Parur road should be extended southwards to join the Parur-Edappalli road, traversing Nirikodu and Karangatturuttu *karas*. The canals on the way should be bridged.

(v) Steps should be taken to deepen and render navigable the northern end of Kanjirakadu *thodu* which connected the northern and southern branches of the Periyar river.

Dewan's reply.—I shall be very glad to have a conference of Engineering officers, the Peishkar and the leading men of the taluk. They will draw up a list of the most urgent works in each taluk and the works could be taken up in the order of urgency.

87. Some needs of the Alwaye Municipality.

Mr. T. A. Gopala Pye (Member, Municipal Council, Alwaye) represented that, as the Alwaye Municipal Town was divided into three isolated bits, the townsfolk experienced much inconvenience in the matter of means of communication, especially during the rainy season when the river was in floods. A portion of the town lay to the east of the railway line, while the major portion of the remaining area lay to the west. The Palace, some public offices and the market were located there. The remaining portion of the town lying to the west of the river extended as far as the Union College. If the river could be bridged, it would be a great convenience for the people to go to the College and to Parur. As the result of a representation at one of the previous sessions of the Assembly, the P. W. D. made some investigations, but it appeared to the Member that the scheme was shelved on account of the heavy cost involved. A bridge across the river was an absolute necessity, and it could not be constructed out of municipal funds, not only because funds were insufficient, but also because the Municipality had proposed to apply those funds to other works. The Municipality resolved to construct the road as far as Chantakadavu. This might cost Rs. 20,000, as estimated by the P. W. D., including land

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